



INFO-ALERT

May/June 2006

INFO-ALERT brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the **Information Resource Center**.

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POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **ENGAGING AUTOCRATIC ALLIES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY**

David Adesnik and Michael McFaul

Washington Quarterly, Spring 2006, 20 pages

David Adesnik and Michael McFaul, from the Institute of Defense Analyses and the Hoover Institution respectively, believe that the United States should improve its efforts to promote democracy abroad, especially under regime-change conditions and in autocratic allies. NGOs lack the ability to confront regimes directly, but the U.S. government can challenge autocratic regimes through what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called transformational diplomacy. Although U.S. diplomats often underestimate their leverage, allowing their preference for stability to blind them to a regime's vulnerabilities, using close ties with a regime to exert pressure can influence the course of political liberalization. The authors suggest that U.S. officials should engage autocratic allies while pushing for evolutionary change as a preemptive strategy to avoid revolutionary change.

2. **THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY**

Irving Louis Horowitz

National Interest, Spring 2006, 7 pages

Irving Horowitz, Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University, laments that even though America has "a zeal for spreading democracy," there is no consensus when it comes to defining the term "democracy." He looks at several views and notes that none of these are perfect, and that success lies in balancing the ideals with reality.

3. **GETTING TO NO: THE LIMITS OF MULTILATERALISM**

James M. Goldgeier and Steven Weber

National Interest, Spring 2006, 7 pages

Enhancing the capability and credibility of military force is important to U.S. influence abroad, but so is America's ability to offer to other states things that the states say they want and need as an inducement to undertake a course of action that benefits U.S. strategic interests. James Goldgeier, an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, believes that most U.S. foreign policy challenges can be addressed by a deft and skillful mix of incentives and constraints. Prospective membership in core international organizations is one of those incentives, but the limits of its use in pursuing U.S. foreign policy aims need to be understood.

4. **TRANSPARENCY: POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS**

Thomas N. Hale and Anne-Marie Slaughter

The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, Winter 2006, 12 pages

"Transparency" has developed from a buzzword into a substantive policy tool in recent years, particularly in efforts to make transnational actors more socially and environmentally responsible. Thomas Hale, Special Assistant to the Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and Anne-Marie Slaughter, Dean of the Wilson School, discuss three transparency mechanisms that serve as useful tools for policymakers to take transparency beyond mere monitoring to provide actual enforcement.

5. **INSIDE THE IVORY TOWER**

Susan Peterson, Michael J. Tierney and Daniel Maliniak

Foreign Policy, November/December 2005, 9 pages

Professors of international relations shape future policy debates and mold the next generation of leaders. So who are these dons of diplomacy, and what do they believe ask Susan Peterson, Dean for Educational Policy and Professor of Government, Michael J. Tierney, Assistant Professor of Government, and Daniel Maliniak, an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

6. **IMPERIAL ALLIES**

Jakub Grygiel

Orbis, Spring 2006, 13 pages

The United States has had, and will continue to have, a difficult time gathering allies because of the supremacy it enjoys. Jakub Grygiel, from the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, maintains that the United States has allies not because of the objectives it tries to achieve but because of what the United States can offer its allies. Such alliances are fickle and last only as long as the benefits allies derive from Washington outweigh the costs. For the United States, managing this situation not only requires the continued ability to offer benefits to potential allies, but also diplomatic dexterity and strategic flexibility.

7. **ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY**

Daniel Yergin

Foreign Affairs, March 2006, 9 pages

Energy expert Daniel Yergin believes energy security will be one of the main challenges for U.S. foreign policy in the years ahead. The current tight oil market and growing demand require a fresh look at energy security issues. He highlights four traditional energy security principles, and emphasizes that global trade in energy will grow substantially as world markets become integrated and demand continues to escalate. Assuring the security of global energy markets will require coordination on both an international and national basis between private sector and governments -- including all the agencies involved from environmental to intelligence.

ECONOMICS & TRADE

8. **THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON FINANCIAL MARKETS**

E. Barry Johnston and Oana Nedelescu

Journal of Financial Crime, vol.13, no. 1, 2006, 19 pages

The authors, from the International Monetary Fund, analyze lessons for effective policy and regulatory responses to protect financial systems in the face of terrorist attacks, using the events in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, and in Madrid on March 11, 2004, as examples. In the subsequent regulatory responses to protect the financial systems from abuse by terrorists, the authors found diversified, liquid, and sound financial markets that were quite efficient in absorbing the shocks of these terrorist attacks. They noted well-organized crisis management responses were key to the markets' ability to continue to function in an effective way. At the international level, a coordinated effort was made to bolster the global payments system, strengthen confidence, and shore up financial markets. The authors conclude that within a short period of time after the New York attacks, a majority of countries stepped up the fight against terrorism in an effort to maintain peace and security and to fight terrorism financing.

9. **CAN AMERICA KEEP UP?**

Richard J. Newman

U.S. News & World Report, March 27, 2006, 9 pages

The U.S. economy is being outpaced by other nations in the race for technological, industrial and entrepreneurial supremacy. The author suggests what America must do to keep up with roaring economies like those of China, India, and South Korea.

10. **BUILDING A MORE HUMANE ECONOMY**

Robert D. Atkinson

The Futurist, May/June 2006, 6 pages

Many people fear that the benefits of the New Economy -- increased productivity and the material gains it brings -- are outweighed by its pitfalls: rapid change, lost jobs due to automation and outsourcing, and disrupted lives. Their faith in the future can only be restored when the benefits of higher productivity translate into a significantly better and more humane economy for individuals, not just for corporations or nations. Achieving this more humane economy entails promoting more humane high-performance work organizations and robust and sustained productivity growth that will enable people to work less without earning less.

11. **THE HIDDEN KEY TO GROWTH**

Martin Baily, Diana Farrell and Jaana Remes

International Economy, Winter 2006, 8 pages

The authors, from the McKinsey Global Institute, say dynamic, competitive local services can unlock a huge contribution to GDP growth and employment. While import substitution, export manufacturing and services for export have all captured policymakers' imaginations, local services are being overlooked. Local services account for more than sixty percent of all jobs in middle-income and developed economies, and virtually all of new job creations. Policymakers who want to leverage the economic power of local services growth need to ensure barriers to competition are removed and service companies are treated equally with manufacturing firms. The authors highlight the positive relationship between the local service sector and employment, and provide recommendations.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

12. **INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION: A PRIMER FOR DEANS**

Elliott Lessen and Christine Sorensen

Change, March/April 2006, 5 pages

Elliott Lessen, Dean of the School of Education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Christine Sorensen of the College of Education at Northern Illinois University, write that deans' responsibilities today have expanded to include not only using technology themselves, but also successfully integrating technology into teaching and learning as they prepare students, teachers, administrators, and other educators.

13. **ON THE INDISPENSABILITY OF THINK TANKS**

John Raisian

The Hoover Digest, Winter 2006, 6 pages

In the twenty-first century, think tanks, once rare, have become a sector. They have also gone “prime time,” involved in every aspect of public policy and the national debate. John Raisian, a director and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, examines the vital role of the modern think tank.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

14. **PRIVACY EROSION: A 'NET LOSS**

Joelle Tessler

CQ Weekly, February 20, 2006, 10 pages

As Americans continue to use the Internet for more reasons, they risk losing some of the privacy protection the government guaranteed when they kept everything at home. Now, as government snooping on the Internet increases, lawmakers are under pressure to find a cyber-age definition of 'unreasonable searches and seizures.'

15. **CENTER STAGE**

Carl Sessions Stepp

American Journalism Review, April/May 2006, 8 pages

The Internet has become an integral part of the way newspapers distribute their content, a phenomenon that is only going to increase. Carl Sessions Stepp, a senior editor with the *American Journalism Review*, takes a first-hand look at four American newspapers' Web operations.